



Jan. 6 'heroes' honored for defending Capitol from Trump mob



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of Calif., applauds U.S. Capitol Police Chief J. Thomas Manger, during a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honoring law enforcement officers who defended the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in Washington, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022. Associated Press

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, FARNOUSH AMIRI and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Law enforcement officers who defended the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021 were honored Tuesday with Congressional Gold Medals, praised as "heroes" for securing democracy when they fought off a brutal and bloody attack by supporters of then-President Donald Trump. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi opened an emotional ceremony, tensions still raw in the stately Capitol Rotunda, which was over-

run that day when Trump supporters roamed the halls trying to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden's election.

"January 6 was a day of horror and heartbreak; it is also a moment of extraordinary heroism —staring down deadly violence and despicable bigotry," Pelosi said.

In bestowing Congress' highest honor, Pelosi praised the heroes for "courageously answering the call to defend our democracy in one of the nation's darkest hours."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said:

"Thank you for having our backs. Thank you for saving our country. Thank you for not only being our friends, but our heroes."

But showing the raw political and emotional fallout from the insurrection and its aftermath, representatives of one of the medal recipients — the family of fallen officer Brian Sicknick — declined to shake hands with the Republican leaders, snubbing McConnell's outstretched palm.

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Successful first coaching clinic by USA Baseball in Aruba



School as a triangular relationship: "We work together with parents and students to reach the best for our children"



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Continued from Front

To recognize the hundreds of officers who were at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the medals will be placed in four locations — at U.S. Capitol Police headquarters, the Metropolitan Police Department, the Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution. In signing the legislation last year, Biden said that one will be placed at the Smithsonian museum "so all visitors can understand what happened that day."

Metropolitan Police Chief Robert Contee said for some officers Tuesday was their first time visiting the Capitol since that horrific day, a scene filled with the clanking sound of metal steel flag poles being wielded as weapons, "the air still thick" with chemical sprays as officers were assaulted by the mob of Trump supporters.

"Many of us still carry the mental, physical and emotional scars," Contee said.

"It was your blood, your sweat and your tears that marked these grounds," he said.

Contee said the medal for the city's police officers who rushed to help their Capitol Police allies defend the dome that day was symbolic of their "contributions not just to Washington, D.C., but to the entire country on Jan. 6."

U.S. Capitol Police Chief Thomas Manger called it "a day unlike any other in our nation's history. And for us. It was a day defined by chaos, courage and tragic loss." The ceremony at the Capitol comes as Democrats, just weeks away from losing their House majority, race to finish a nearly 18-month investigation of the insurrection.

Without support from GOP leadership, Democrats and just two Republicans have led the probe and vowed to uncover the details of the attack, which came as Trump tried to overturn his election defeat and encouraged his supporters to "fight like hell" in a rally just before the congressional certification.

Awarding the medals is



From left, Serena Liebengood, widow of U.S. Capitol Police officer Howie Liebengood, former Washington Metropolitan Police Department officer Michael Fanone Washington Metropolitan Police Department officer Daniel Hodges, U.S. Capitol Police Sgt. Aquilino Gonell and U.S. Capitol Police Sgt. Harry Dunn listen as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol holds a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, Oct. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

among Pelosi's last ceremonial acts as she prepares to step down from leadership. When the bill passed the House more than a year ago, she said the law enforcement officers from across the city defended the Capitol because they were "the type of Americans who heard the call to serve and answered it, putting country above self."

Dozens of the officers who fought off the rioters sustained serious injuries. As the mob of Trump's supporters pushed past them and into the Capitol, police were beaten with American flags and their own guns, dragged down stairs, sprayed with chemicals and trampled and crushed by the crowd. Officers suffered physical wounds, including brain injuries and others with lifelong effects, and many struggled to work afterward because they were so traumatized.

Four officers who testified at

a House hearing last year spoke openly about the lasting mental and physical scars, and some detailed near-death experiences.

Metropolitan Police Officer Daniel Hodges described foaming at the mouth, bleeding and screaming as the rioters tried to gouge out his eye and crush him between two heavy doors. Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone, who rushed to the scene, said he was "grabbed, beaten, tased, all while being called a traitor to my country." Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn said a large group of people shouted the N-word at him as he was trying to keep them from breaching the House chamber.

At least nine people who were at the Capitol that day died during and after the rioting, including a woman who was shot and killed by police as she tried to break into the House chamber and three other

Trump supporters who suffered medical emergencies. Two police officers died by suicide in the days that immediately followed, and a third officer, Sicknick, collapsed and later died after one of the rioters sprayed him with a chemical. A medical examiner determined he died of natural causes.

Several months after the attack, in August 2021, the Metropolitan Police announced that two more of their officers who had responded to the insurrection had died by suicide. The circumstances that led to their deaths were unknown. The June 2021 House vote to award the medals won widespread support from both parties. But 21 House Republicans voted against it — lawmakers who had downplayed the violence and stayed loyal to Trump. The Senate passed the legislation by voice vote, with no Republican objections. Pelosi, McConnell, House

Republican leader Kevin McCarthy and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer attended the ceremony and awarded medals.

The Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow, has been handed out since 1776. Previous recipients include George Washington, Sir Winston Churchill, Bob Hope and Robert Frost. In recent years, Congress has awarded the medals to former New Orleans Saints player Steve Gleason, who became a leading advocate for people struggling with Lou Gehrig's disease, and biker Greg LeMond.

Signing the bill at the White House last year, Biden said the officers' heroism cannot be forgotten.

The insurrection was a "violent attempt to overturn the will of the American people," and Americans have to understand what happened, he said. "The honest and unvarnished truth. We have to face it." □

Meta oversight board urges changes to VIP moderation system

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Facebook parent Meta's quasi-independent oversight board said Tuesday that an internal system that exempted high-profile users, including former U.S. President Donald Trump, from some or all of its content moderation rules needs a major overhaul.

The report by the Oversight Board, which was more than a year in the making, said the system "is flawed in key areas which the company must address."

Meta asked the board to look into the system after The Wall Street Journal reported last year that it was being abused by many of its elite users, who were posting material that would result in penalties for ordinary people, including for harassment and incitement of violence.

Facebook's rules reportedly didn't seem to apply to some VIP users while others faced reviews of rule-breaking posts that never happened, according to the Journal article, which said the system had at least 5.8 million exempted users as of 2020.

The system known as "XCheck," or cross-check was exposed in Facebook documents leaked by Frances Haugen, a former product manager turned whistleblower who captured worldwide headlines with revelations alleging that the social media company prioritized profits over online safety and galvanized regulators into cracking down on hate speech and misinformation.

Nick Clegg, Meta's president for global affairs, tweeted that the company requested the review of the system "so that we can continue our work to improve the program."

To fully address the board's recommendations, "we've agreed to respond within 90 days," he added.

The company has said cross-check, which applies to Facebook and Instagram, was designed to prevent "overpolicing," or mistakenly removing con-

tent thought to be breaking the platform's rules.

The Oversight Board's report said that the cross-check system resulted in users being treated unequally and that it led to delays in taking down content that violated the rules because there were up to five separate checks. Decisions on average took more than five days, it found.

For content posted by American users, the average decision took 12 days, and for Afghanistan and Syria, it was 17 days. In some cases, it took a lot longer: one piece of content waited 222 days more than seven months for a decision, the report said, without providing further details.

Among its 32 recommendations, the board said Meta "should prioritize expression that is important for human rights, including expression which is of special public importance."

Human rights defenders, advocates for marginalized communities, public officials and journalists should be given higher priority than others put on the cross-check list because they are business partners, such as big companies, political parties, musicians, celebrities and artists, the report said.

"If users included due to their commercial importance frequently post violating content, they should no longer benefit from special protection," the board said.

Addressing other flaws, the board also urged Meta to remove or hide content while it's being reviewed and said the company should "radically increase transparency around cross-check and how it operates," such as outlining "clear, public criteria" on who gets to be on the list.

The board upheld Facebook's decision to ban Trump last year out of concern he incited violence leading to the riot on the U.S. Capitol.

But it said the company failed to mention the cross-check system in its request for a ruling. The company

has until Jan. 7 to decide whether to let Trump back on.

Clegg said in a blog post that Meta has already

been making changes to cross-check, including standardizing it so that it's "run in a more consistent way," opening up the sys-

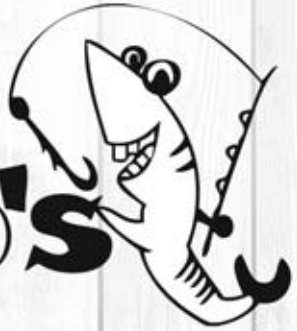
tem to content from all 3 billion Facebook users and holding annual reviews to verify its list of elite users and entities. □




Facebook's Meta logo sign is seen at the company headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., on, Oct. 28, 2021.

Associated Press

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Maryland governor bans TikTok in state government

By **BRIAN WITTE, SCOTT BAUER and JAMES POLLARD**
Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland (AP) — Maryland is banning the use of TikTok and certain China and Russia-based platforms in the state's executive branch of government, Gov. Larry Hogan said Tuesday, citing an unacceptable cybersecurity risk to the state.

The Republican governor announced an emergency cybersecurity directive to prohibit the use of the platforms, saying they may be involved in cyber-espionage, surveillance of government entities and inappropriate collection of sensitive personal information.

Under the directive, state agencies must remove any of these products from state networks. Agencies also are required to implement measures to prevent installation of these products, and put in place network-based restrictions to prevent the use of, or access to, prohibited services. Wisconsin's Republican representatives in Congress on Tuesday called on Democratic Gov. Tony Evers to delete the video platform



Wisconsin Democratic Gov. Tony Evers makes his acceptance speech on Nov. 9, 2022, in Madison, Wis., after winning the governorship election.

Associated Press

TikTok from all state government devices, calling it a national security threat.

The request comes a week after South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, a Republican, banned state employees and contractors from accessing TikTok on state-owned devices, citing its ties to China. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, also a Republican, on Monday banned TikTok from all state government devices. The issue has gained in-

creasing traction in conservative circles.

A researcher with the conservative Heritage Foundation last month called on government officials to ban TikTok from operating entirely in the United States. And last week, FBI Director Chris Wray said China could use the app to collect data on its users that could be used for traditional espionage operations as part of his growing warnings about the popular video sharing

app.

"Wisconsinites expect their governor to be aware of the dangerous national security threats TikTok poses and to protect them from this avenue for CCP intelligence operations," said the letter signed by U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson and U.S. Reps. Mike Gallagher, Tom Tiffany, Glenn Grothman, Bryan Steil and Scott Fitzgerald.

Gallagher last month joined with U.S. Sen. Marco

Rubio, of Florida, in writing an opinion piece calling for governments to ban TikTok. Evers' spokesperson Britt Cudaback said the administration takes cybersecurity threats "very seriously" and regularly consults with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, and counterintelligence specialists when making decisions about state government devices.

"We will continue to defer to the judgment and advice of law enforcement, cybersecurity, and counterintelligence experts regarding this and other evolving cybersecurity issues," Cudaback said.

Earlier, on Twitter, Cudaback faulted Republicans for not speaking directly with the governor about their request.

"My favorite part about Wisconsin Republicans' (tilde)we want to work together(tilde) narrative is when they send a formal, three-page letter that could've been a phone call just so they leak to press and get stories like this," she said in reference to a Milwaukee Journal Sentinel story, which first reported on the letter. □

COVID's lingering impact prompts Real ID deadline extension

By **JIM SALTER**
Associated Press

The deadline for obtaining the Real ID needed to board a domestic flight has been pushed back again, with the Department of Homeland Security citing the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic for the slower-than-expected rollout. The deadline to have a Real ID had been May 3, 2023, but DHS announced Monday that it was pushed back two years, to May 7, 2025.

"This extension will give states needed time to ensure their residents can obtain a REAL ID-compliant license or identification card," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas said in a news re-

lease. "DHS will also use this time to implement innovations to make the process more efficient and accessible. We will continue to ensure that the American

public can travel safely." People are getting compliant IDs as they renew driver's licenses, but DHS said the pandemic resulted in backlogs at state driver's

license offices. Because of the backlogs, many state agencies that issue driver's licenses automatically extended expiration dates on licenses and ID cards, rather than issuing licenses and cards compliant with the Real ID requirement.

After the May 2025 deadline, domestic travelers 18 and older on commercial flights must have a Real ID-compliant driver's license or state photo ID identification card. Real ID also will be required to enter some federal facilities such as military bases. The Real ID law was passed by Congress in 2005 on a recommendation from the 9/11 Commission. The new form of ID incorporates anti-counterfeiting technology and uses doc-

umentary evidence and record checks to ensure a person is who they claim to be. Enforcement has been delayed several times since the original 2008 deadline. Most recently, in April 2021, DHS extended the deadline to May 2023, also citing how COVID-19 made it harder for states to issue new licenses. DHS said in 2021 that only 43% of state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards were considered Real ID-compliant.

All 50 states, the District of Columbia and four of the five U.S. territories covered by the Real ID Act are issuing Real ID-compliant driver's licenses and ID cards. DHS said American Samoa is under review for Real ID enforcement. □



A sample copy of a Washington driver license is shown at the Washington state Department of Licensing office in Lacey, Wash., on June 22, 2018.

Associated Press

China blasts U.S. report, reiterates 'no 1st use' nuke policy

BEIJING (AP) — China strictly adheres to its policy of no first use of nuclear weapons "at any time and under any circumstances," its Defense Ministry said Tuesday in a scathing response to a U.S. report alleging a major buildup in Beijing's nuclear capabilities.

The Pentagon last week released an annual China security report that warned Beijing would likely have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035, and that it has provided no clarity on how it plans to use them.

That report "distorts China's national defense policy and military strategy, makes groundless speculation about China's military development and grossly interferes in China's internal affairs on the issue of Taiwan," ministry spokesperson Tan Kefei said in a statement. Tan accused the U.S. of being the "biggest troublemaker and destroyer of world peace and stability," and repeated that Beijing has never renounced the use of force to conquer self-governing Taiwan, a U.S. ally that China considers part of its territory.

Tan did not directly address the report's allegations about a Chinese nuclear buildup, but blamed the



Visitors tour past military vehicles carrying the Dong Feng 41 and DF-17 ballistic missiles at an exhibition highlighting President Xi Jinping and his China's achievements under his leadership, at the Beijing Exhibition Hall in Beijing on Oct. 12, 2022.

U.S. for raising nuclear tensions, particularly with its plan to help Australia build a fleet of submarines powered by U.S. nuclear technology, which the French president has described as a "confrontation with China." Australia has said it will not seek to arm the submarines with nuclear weapons. Tan also accused the U.S. of having the world's largest nuclear arsenal, although that title is actu-

ally held by Russia, a close Chinese military, economic and diplomatic partner.

As of 2022, Russia possesses a total of 5,977 nuclear warheads compared to 5,428 in the U.S. inventory, according to the Federation of American Scientists. China currently has 350 nuclear warheads, according to the federation.

China has long adhered to what it calls a purely defensive national security strate-

gy, including a claim that it will never be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict. That stance has frequently been challenged at home and abroad, particularly if it comes to a confrontation over Taiwan. "What needs to be emphasized is that China firmly pursues the nuclear strategy of self-defense and defense, always adheres to the policy of no first use of nuclear weapons at any time and

under any circumstances, and maintains its nuclear force at the minimum level required for national security," Tan said in the statement, which was posted on the ministry's website.

His remarks came days after U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the U.S. is at a pivotal point with China and will need military strength to ensure that American values, not Beijing's, set global norms in the 21st century.

Austin's speech Saturday at the Reagan National Defense Forum capped a week in which the Pentagon was squarely focused on China's rise and what that might mean for America's position in the world.

China "is the only country with both the will and, increasingly, the power to reshape its region and the international order to suit its authoritarian preferences," Austin said. "So let me be clear: We will not let that happen." Austin was on hand Friday for a dramatic nighttime rollout of the U.S. military's newest nuclear stealth bomber, the B-21 Raider, which is being designed to beat the quickly growing cyber, space and nuclear capabilities of Beijing. □

Associated Press

Israel dismantles unused Gaza crossing to extend barrier

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Bulldozers and cranes were seen Tuesday dismantling a commercial crossing point on the eastern side of

Gaza City after Israel decided to extend a security barrier at the location of the long-defunct terminal. The Karni crossing had

been the largest and main import-export terminal for the Palestinian enclave, equipped with scanners and conveyor belts. But Israel shut it down when it imposed a blockade on Gaza following the militant Hamas group's takeover in 2007.

For the next three years, Karni operated intermittently for limited deliveries of basic humanitarian needs in Gaza. Israel eventually stopped using it and shifted the work to the smaller, limited Kerem Shalom crossing in southeast Gaza Strip.

Kerem Shalom lacked the advanced capabilities of Karni and it depended on back-to-back movement

of goods, where Israeli trucks offload their shipments and leave before Palestinian trucks enter to pick up the goods.

On Sunday, the Israeli military said it began an operation to evacuate Karni to complete the construction of an underground barrier. "This is an operation designed to improve defense in this area, which takes place as part of the improvement of defense in the entire border area with the Gaza Strip," it added. Last year, Israel announced the completion of an enhanced security barrier around the Gaza Strip designed to prevent militants from sneaking into the country.

The 65-kilometer (40-mile) barrier includes radar systems, maritime sensors and a network of underground sensors to detect militant tunnels. Existing fencing was replaced with a 6-meter (6.5-yard) high "smart fence" with sensors and cameras.

The Gaza-Israel border has been largely calm since an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire ended a three-day war with Islamic Jihad militants in the territory. Hamas Islamists also honor unofficial understandings to maintain calm in exchange for Israeli economic incentives, including allowing thousands of Gazans to cross into Israel for work. □



An Israeli excavator demolishes the remains of Karni commercial border crossing between Israel and Gaza Strip, east of Gaza City, Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022.

Associated Press

Taliban allow high school graduation exams for Afghan girls

By **RAHIM FAIEZ**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Afghan girls will be allowed to take their high school graduation exams this week, an official and documents from the Taliban government indicated Tuesday — even though they have been banned from classrooms since the former insurgents took over the country last year.

According to two documents from the Taliban ministry of education, obtained by The Associated Press, the decision applies to 31 out of Afghanistan's 34 provinces where the winter school break starts in late December.

Ehsanullah Kitab, head of the Kabul education department, said the exams would take place on Wednesday. He provided no other details and it was not clear how many teenage girls would be able to take the exam.

One of the documents, from the Kabul education department, said the exams would last from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A second docu-



Afghan girls attend a religious school, which remained open since the last year's Taliban takeover, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Aug 11, 2022.

ment, signed by Habibullah Agha, the education minister who took office in September, said the tests would be held in 31 Afghan provinces. The three excluded provinces Kandahar, Helmand and Nimroz have a different timetable for the school year and high school graduation exams typically take place

there later.

"This is ridiculous," said 18-year-old Najela from Kabul, giving only her first name for fear of reprisals. She would now be in twelfth grade and eligible for the exam. "We spent a whole year under tension and stress and haven't read a single page of our textbooks."

"How can we possibly take an exam after a year and a half that the Taliban have kept school doors closed," she added.

The Taliban overran Afghanistan in August 2021 as U.S. and NATO forces were in the final weeks of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war. Despite initially promising a more

moderate rule and women's and minority rights, they have restricted rights and freedoms and widely implemented their harsh interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia.

They have banned girls from middle school and high school, restricted women from most employment, and ordered them to wear head-to-toe clothing in public. Women are also banned from parks, gyms, and funfairs.

Women have not been denied access from universities under the Taliban and the implication of the latest development is that Afghan girls who obtain a high school diploma after Wednesday's exam would be able to apply for universities.

A Kabul high school principal said she was informed that twelfth grade girls will have just one day to take exams in 14 subjects, with 10 questions from each subject. The principal, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said most girl students lacked textbooks. □

Associated Press

Amnesty International Canada says it was hacked by Beijing

By **ROB GILLIES**
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The Canadian branch of Amnesty International said Monday it was the target of a cyberattack sponsored by China.

The human rights organization said it first detected the breach Oct. 5 and hired forensic investigators and cybersecurity experts to investigate.

Ketty Nivyabandi, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada, said the searches in their systems were specifically and solely related to China and Hong Kong, as well as a few prominent Chinese activists. The hack left the organization offline for nearly three weeks. U.S. cybersecurity firm Secureworks said there was no attempt to monetize the access, and

"a threat group sponsored or tasked by the Chinese state" was likely behind the attack because of the nature of the searches, the level of sophistication and the use of specific tools that are distinctive of China-sponsored actors.

Nivyabandi encouraged activists and journalists to update their cybersecurity protocols in light of it.

"As an organization advocating for human rights globally, we are very aware that we may be the target of state-sponsored at-

tempts to disrupt or surveil our work. These will not intimidate us and the security and privacy of our activists, staff, donors, and stakeholders remain our utmost priority," Nivyabandi said. Amnesty is among organizations that support human rights activists and journalists targeted by state actors for surveillance. That includes confirming cases of activists' and journalists' cellphones being infected with Pegasus spyware, which turns the devices into real-time listening tools in addition to copying their contents.

In August, the cybersecurity firm Recorded Future listed Amnesty and the International Federation for Human Rights among organizations that Chinese hackers were targeting through password-stealing schemes

designed to harvest credentials. It called that particularly concerning given the Chinese state's "reported human rights abuses in relation to Uyghurs, Tibetans and other ethnic and religious minority groups."

Amnesty has raised alarms about a system of internment camps in China that swept up a million or more Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, according to estimates by experts. China, which describes the camps as vocational training and education centers to combat extremism, says they have been closed. The government has never publicly said how many people passed through them.

China's embassy in Ottawa did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. □



Ketty Nivyabandi, Secretary General of Amnesty International Canada, speaks during a news conference on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

Successful first coaching clinic by USA Baseball in Aruba

A total of 70 coaches took part and received a certificate

ORANJESTAD – During the weekend of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of December, the first coaching clinic by USA Baseball took place in Aruba. A weekend dedicated to improving the sport of baseball on our island.

Friday afternoon, the Meet and Greet took place in Local Store, allowing the local coaches to meet more closely and have a chat with the coaches of USA Baseball. In a friendly atmosphere, the four coaches were presented and this way, the event was kick-started.

On the 3rd of December,

the first session began at the University of Aruba at 12:05pm sharp. It must be noted that this was attended by 70 coaches from different organizations in Aruba, and two of them were female.

During this session they elaborated on different aspects, for example in-field, hitting, base coaching, outfield, pitching and baserunning. Even though the session lasted five hours and was dedicated to the theoretic part, the questions and interactions were great, and were well received by the coaches of USA Baseball. The atmo-

sphere was very positive and filled with energy. Most importantly, it showed that the coaches are here to continue developing themselves as a coach. Without a doubt, some topics were new, and some were being refreshed, but everyone present learned something on this first day. At the end of the session, all four coaches received a beautiful souvenir of Aruba.

On Sunday, at 9am the second session began at the Nadi Croes/Crismo Angela station and coaches had to come on the field to see and put what they learned the day before

into practice. Attendants had the honor of having Mr. Randolph Oduber, executive member of WBSC as a participant, and he joined during both days in his role as coach. The sun was shining brightly, but the participants persevered until the end, and they received their participation certificate.

Sr. Elston Figaroa, president of Aruba North Little League emphasized: "This was the first clinic, but we are sure it will not be the last one. The coaches of USA Baseball were extremely satisfied with the organization and the participation of

the local coaches. And we received good comments from our local coaches."

It was admirable to see so many coaches coming together to the benefit of sport and our children. On the images, a hidden message becomes visible: if we work together, we can all achieve.

Thanks go out from the organizers to all participants, the speakers of USA Baseball, all organizations that helped us to give the best possible treatment to our guests, and of course, to the team of Aruba North Little League. □





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ORANJESTAD — One thing is for certain: Chef Scott Scheuerman and his team are famous for getting people hooked, just like the fish on your plate. You will get the taste of home fused with Caribbean while dining in elegance. Scheuerman will tell how Aqua Grill established its name since opening in 2002, and why it reaped accolades from such prestigious travel publications as Fodor's, who says, "This hip restaurant is heaven on earth for seafood lovers, who will find fresh fish galore..." Now is your chance to taste Aqua Grill's NEW seasonal menu and create a lifetime culinary memory.

'A Scheuer thing'

Secretly, we all know that the success of a restaurant begins in the kitchen. That is where the chef creates his magic and for Aqua Grill the culinary team has won an assortment of awards for their continuous delivery of 'haute-cuisine del mar.' Classic seafood is mingled with contemporary ideas resulting in surprising dishes that soon made the restaurant a must-dine, confirmed by established travel media specialists like Fodor's and Frommer's. American-born Scheuerman, executive chef of Aqua Grill, is thrilled about 'his restaurant'. "We started out as a New England style seafood restaurant, patterned after Boston style. But we quickly blended into some Caribbean, local flair... if you will. We do still offer the traditional New England dishes like whole Maine lobster, northern seafood plates like the salmon, tuna and swordfish. We buy also

from the local fisherman to offer Caribbean dishes like snapper and grouper which are number one sellers in our restaurant being the most prevalent local fishes. Catches like wahoo, mahi mahi and brasil are welcome too, anything that comes out of the water we embrace."



Fresh import from Boston

Aqua Grill flies in their own shipments on a weekly basis mostly from Boston because the price quality balance is the best, says the chef. "We are unique in this. Number one priority is buying fresh, we mean not frozen. Our original concept is New England seafood and we stick to that concept. They have a wonderful assortment of oysters and lobsters as well." Aqua Grill also offers international fusion type of menu items; actually all you wish for is there. A very balanced menu awaits you. "And we have options for meat lovers and vegetarians/vegans too. We, however, do not mix it up too much because we believe we do not want to lose our identity as a seafood restaurant," Scheuerman adds.

Sublime menu

Now is the time to indulge in Aqua Grill's dinner experience. The established restaurant offers a sensational menu. We present to you a Raw Bar with among others fresh Oysters on the half Shell, Littleneck Clams, Peruvian Ceviche and Lobster Salad. Steamed Dumplings and Prawns or Steamed Mussels seduce you from the open view kitchen.

After that continue your gastronomic trip to heaven with the house specialties like Main Lobster, steamed or broiled or maybe you crave for the best Alaska King Crab Legs you have ever tasted?

You haven't reached your destination yet because there are more main course options to blow you away: Seared Chilean Sea Bass, Cioppino or Blackened Tuba are just some to mention.

Take a pick out of Aqua Grill's delicious desserts to finally conclude yes, this beats it all. We will be back for more. □

Aqua Grill

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Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Barbara E. Ringrose**.

Barbara wrote to us saying: "I saw yesterday's paper 'Aruba to Me' and wanted to send the various pictures I've collected since my 1st vacation in 2009. I have been sharing the Aruba sunsets ever since to family, friends and on social media. I would like to think I have brought an interest for vacationers to this beautiful island. Our family has vacationed and has loved visiting Aruba for over 40 years owning multiple time shares and a current home in Tierra del Sol. Our family will stay here for a couple of months." I have also written a book which I am marketing on the island this week. Unfortunately we leave on Saturday but we will be back in early 2023. I hope to make the book a top seller while promoting 'ONE HAPPY ISLAND'!

I would be honored to have you post one of my sunset pictures.

Masha danki! And Feliz Navidad!"



Thank you so much for sharing your story with us, and on behalf of the Aruba Today team we wish you

all the best with your book, thank you for promoting our Island.☐

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Aruba's chiton – clecan

Episode CLXXXIII- 183

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight shares native cultural awareness educates and safeguards Aruba's heritage and encourage readers to experiment an island keeper state of mind. Live and discover true destination values behind our beaches and since this native cultural blog get more reasons to love Aruba.

Accord scientific investigations chitons- local name "clecan" - evolved from the Paleozoic, with their actually body fixed by the Mesozoic. Chitons are exclusively marine animals that live worldwide from cold waters through to the tropics on and under rocks. Some species are exposed to the air and light for long periods most species inhabit intertidal zones however a few species live in deep water.

All chitons bear a protective dorsal shell that is divided into eight articulating aragonite valves embedded in the tough muscular girdle that surrounds the chiton's body. Compared with the shells of other mollusks, this arrangement allows chitons to roll into a protective ball when dislodged and to cling tightly to irregular surfaces. A chiton creeps along slowly on a muscular foot. It has considerable power of adhesion and can cling to rocks very powerfully, like a limpet.

Chitons are generally herbivorous grazers feeding on algae, bryozoans, diatoms, barnacles and sometimes bacteria by scraping the rocky substrate with their well-developed radulae, a kind of micro teeth.

A few species of chitons are predatory and they catch other small invertebrates, such as shrimp and possibly even small fish, by holding the enlarged, hood-like front end of the griddle up off the surface, and then clamping down on unsuspecting, shelter-seeking prey. They fertilization is usually external and takes place either in the surrounding water. The male releases sperm into the water, while the female releases eggs either individually, or in a long string.

The eggs have a tough spiny coat, and usually hatch to release a free-swimming trochophore larva. When the larva is ready to become an adult, the body elongates and the gland cell secretes the plates of the shell.



After a chiton dies, the individual valves which make up the eight-part shell comes apart because the girdle is no longer holding them together, and then the plates sometimes wash up in beach drift. The individual shell plates from a chiton are sometimes known as butterfly shells due to their shape. Several species of chiton are known to exhibit homing behaviors, journeying to feed and then returning to the exact spot they previously inhabited. The method they use to perform such behaviors remains unknown. One theory has the chitons remembering the topographic profile of the region, thus being able to guide themselves back to their home scar by a physical knowledge of the rocks and visual input from their numerous primitive eyespots. They may leave chemical cues along the rock surface which their olfactory senses can detect and home in on.

Chitons are eaten in several parts of the world included Aruba. Our ancestors

loved the energy they obtained by eating them raw. Many shell pieces of local chitons can be found on archaeological grounds. They are also traditionally eaten in Philippines where it is called kibet if raw and chiton if fried. Native Americans of the Pacific coasts of North America eat chitons. They are a common food on the Pacific coast of South America and in the Galapagos. Aboriginal people in Australia eat chiton and in South Korea also eat chiton slightly boiled and mixed with vegetables and hot sauce.

Animals which prey on chitons include humans, seagulls, sea stars, crabs, lobsters and fish.

Now if you are intrigued by Aruba's origins and our cultural heritage? we encourage you to do something different outside the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitor of Etnia Nativa's private residential encounter set up, where you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba heritage, an spectacle of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools colonial furniture and items. Get inside a recycled environment fully of peace and relaxation, knowledge and information.

Etnia Nativa is since 1994 the home of Anthony our acclaimed, columnist, native artist and island expert who is guide and lectures through his resplendent home. Here is the sole place to recreate and be introduced to an authentic glimpse in to native Aruba. Something completely different for a change, a contemporary native experience!

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School as a triangular relationship: “We work together with parents and students to reach the best for our children”

ORANJESTAD – During the event ‘Topami na Mita’, which in Papiamentu means, Meet me in the Middle, the head of Abraham de Veer School, Mrs. Bueno-Guzman-Hooft was present, and she explained the important role of school in the life of a child, the negative effects of media and electronic devices on children, and the importance of cooperation between parents and the school.

Mrs. Bueno-Guzman-Hooft explained that as a school they are there to work and help the children and teenagers together with their parents. The parents are the first line, and if they parents keep the school aware of any developments, together they can continue working with the youth to improve any situation that may arise.

She commented however that times have changed greatly, and in her 28 years of experience working in Education, she has seen major changes. The change, as she indicated, was that many years ago there was better social control. When the child went home, she could have her mother still at home, or grandmother or even great-grandmother, or a neighbor, who had some control over the child. But nowadays, everything



is completely different.

These days, both parents

need to work; some of them even have two jobs or even more, in order to be able to afford all household expenses. This means

that parents, not because they don't want to, but because they are not able to, don't have enough time to spend with their children and no longer have that type of control.

“This is the part where we need to work together with parents, so that parents can be more aware and be more responsible with their children. We understand that they need to work, but the problem is that right now the parents want to educate their children, but they are not educating them the way it needs to be, and then you have the media is educating their children”, Bueno-Guzman-Hooft commented.

She emphasized that me-

dia, videogames and all sort of electronic games are educating the children, and they are inundated with positive and negative information. However the information often is negative, even fake news, and this can cause sometimes that the children and teenagers fall into anxiety.

“They cannot live without their smartphones. The smartphone makes sure that they have a friend, someone close to them because they feel alone. But even though the smartphone is something good when you know how to use it, when you don't know how to use it, it can become something hazardous”, she said.

She indicated that if a teenager still doesn't know how to properly use their smartphone, the parents need to be aware; it's not enough to just buy expensive items to fill the void that the parent wants to fill from not being present in their children's lives, to fill it with a smartphone which could turn dangerous.

“This is why, the school in a triangular relationship works together with parents and students to reach the best for our kids. So parents, come to your child's school when you are in a difficult situation. Don't stay silent because the school is always there to help when possible”, she said. □



**ARUBA
CLEAN**



**IS MORE
DUSHI**

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Turn to

1 True thing

5 In the past

11 Back

12 Counter-part

13 Base group

14 Garden pavilion

15 Spinning toy

16 Thin coin

17 Flat fish

19 That fellow

22 Garden pest

24 Rental contract

26 "Hold on!"

27 Movie mutants

28 Land units

30 Used a sponge

31 By now

32 Calls it a day

34 Psychologist Carl

35 Little jump

38 Put another way

41 Singing star

42 Asylum seeker

43 Persia, today

44 Cruise treasurer

DOWN

1 Greek group

2 Flying: Prefix

3 Garment with a notched collar

4 Take a stab at

5 Knock off work

6 Tooth part

7 Disconcert

8 Bullring cry

9 Hold up

10 Freud topic

16 June honoree

P	E	S	O			T	O	R	C	H
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L	A	T	E	A	R	R	I	V	A	L
U	N	L	E	T		S	C	E	N	E
P	E	E	L	S			E	N	D	S

Yesterday's answer

18 Toy with a tail

19 Sheep breed

20 "Got it"

21 Fix

22 Not at home

23 Speed

25 Stage direction

29 Knight's attendant

30 Costume part

33 Lower than

34 Benders

36 Track shape

37 Gasp for air

38 Workout unit

39 Flightless bird

40 Knight's address

41 Underlit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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			34				35	36	37
38	39	40				41			
42						43			
44						45			

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-7

CRYPTOQUOTE

TYHAM PSYHBD. FEOD PSYHBD.

TYSM RFETD YE PSYHBD. VY

GVFF PDODB KSVF MEH.

— KBSPI FFEMA GBVJQY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO LOVE A PERSON IS TO SEE ALL THEIR MAGIC, AND TO REMIND THEM OF IT WHEN THEY HAVE FORGOTTEN. — UNKNOWN

Millennial Money: How credit can beat buy now, pay later

By MELISSA LAMBARENA of NerdWallet

At first glance, a "buy now, pay later" plan's promise of no interest or upfront fees can seem more appealing than a credit card's terms. Dividing a transaction into, say, a pay-in-four installment plan sounds straightforward and manageable. Unlike credit cards, though, these plans lack certain consumer protections and are sometimes unpredictable. In this way, credit cards can be superior to pay-in-four buy now, pay later plans, making it easier to manage payments, dispute transactions, get refunds, establish credit or access certain debt-pay-off options.

Here are some cases in which a credit card can come out ahead:

1. CREDIT REPORTING

Credit card issuers typically report on-time payments to the three major credit bureaus Equifax, Experian and TransUnion which can help you establish a credit history. That's not always the case with buy now, pay later companies. Depending on the lender and the plan, you might only see an account reported to the credit bureaus if it is sent to collections after you default on a loan and that kind of blemish can stay on your credit report for several years.

And late fees are possible, given how easy it is to rack up several buy now, pay later plans at once. Because these loans don't always appear on credit reports, future lenders may not have visibility into how many you've opened.

2. EASIER PAYMENT MANAGEMENT



Credit cards as seen July 1, 2021, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

Credit cards simplify tracking multiple purchases and payments in one place. If you're juggling buy now, pay later plans from several companies with different due dates, it's not as seamless. Some buy, now pay later companies may require automatic payments linked to a bank account, but that can lead to overdraft fees if that account lacks funding. Compared with light users of buy now, pay later plans, heavy users have a larger decline in financial health in factors like overdraft fees or late fees, according to the study "Buy Now Pay (Pain?) Later," co-authored by Ed deHaan, associate professor at the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington. A credit card can also derail a budget, but it has a big guardrail: There's a credit check that may factor in your income and other debts. "That protection, which can be a frustrating thing for a consumer who is trying to get credit, actually can be a really helpful protection to stop someone from getting in over their head on multiple lines of credit," deHaan

says. Credit cards allow for easier disputes and returns. If you're only making a return, the process to get money refunded to a credit card is simpler compared with that of some buy now, pay later plans. For billing dispute and error resolution, credit card holders have legal rights that may include not having to make a payment for the item while a claim is pending. The law also forbids credit card issuers from charging multiple late fees for the same missed payment. □

says.

3. TRANSPARENT DISCLOSURES

Regulatory requirements on credit cards can offer additional protections. The Truth in Lending Act requires credit card issuers to provide disclosures that show the card's terms and a box that outlines the costs of carrying the card such as fees, interest rates, minimum interest charges, grace periods and other details. After launching an investigation, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, or CFPB, determined in a report that most buy now, pay later lenders don't provide these standard cost-of-credit disclosures or periodic statement.

4. CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

If an item arrives damaged, its quality is less than ideal, it's stolen or it never arrives, you might be unpleasantly surprised by your buy now, pay later terms.

Credit cards allow for easier disputes and returns. If you're only making a return, the process to get money refunded to a credit card is simpler compared with that of some buy now, pay later plans. For billing dispute and error resolution, credit card holders have legal rights that may include not having to make a payment for the item while a claim is pending.

The law also forbids credit card issuers from charging multiple late fees for the same missed payment. □

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24/7

December serving up baked Alaska and warming most of Arctic

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
AP Science Writer

Much of the Arctic is in a burst of freak December warming.

In Utqiagvik, Alaska's northernmost community formerly known as Barrow, it hit 40 degrees (4.4 degrees Celsius) Monday morning. That's not only a record by six degrees (3.3 degrees Celsius) but it's the warmest that region has seen on record from late October to late April, according to Rick Thoman, a climate specialist at the International Arctic Research Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

It rained over the weekend in Nome, Alaska, which is unusual but not unheard of for December and the town also had record-breaking warmth Sunday. Savoonga Creek was flooding and didn't have snow cover, nor did the town of Teller northwest of Nome, where snow this time of year is used for drinking water, Thoman said.

On Sunday, the Arctic as a whole averaged 11.5 degrees (6.4 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 1979-2000 average temperature and on Monday, computer models showed that average to likely be 10.5 degrees (5.9 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal, according to the University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer.

In Nuuk, Greenland, on



Areas of Greenland are seen from the air near Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, May 20, 2021. Associated Press

Friday it was shirt-sleeve weather in December, when the temperature peaked at 54 degrees (12.2 degrees Celsius), 26 degrees (14.4 degrees Celsius) above the normal high mark. In Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, on Friday it hit 48 degrees (8.9 degrees Celsius), which was 34 degrees (18.9 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal.

"The entire Arctic is hot except for small portions of the central and eastern Canadian Arctic and a

very small portion of Siberia," Thoman said from a warmer than normal Fairbanks.

Part of it is because of a system of storms, which is likely just random weather, but part is it from lower than normal sea ice, which is human-caused climate change, Thoman said.

Sea ice in the Arctic is about sixth lowest on record, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center. It's far below normal "but we've seen worse," Thoman said.

Sea ice matters because in areas of the Arctic there's no sun in the winter and the atmosphere is cold. But if there's open water, that's usually warmer than the atmosphere.

"Think of that as a heating pad and it's just emitting heat into the atmosphere," Thoman said. □

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Lost Stephen Sondheim musical reveals insight into a giant

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A copy of what's being called Stephen Sondheim's first original cast recording has been found on a misplaced CD, capturing the legendary composer's budding skills in a student-led musical while at Williams College in 1948. Sondheim was an 18-year-old sophomore when he wrote the music for "Phinney's Rainbow," a show that had just four performances sponsored by Williams' theatrical organization Cap and Bells.

Paul Salsini, a journalist and the author of the new memoir "Sondheim & Me: Revealing a Musical Genius," recently found the CD while putting away material he had amassed for his book and realized it contained "Sondheim's first original cast recording."

"I played it and I thought, 'My goodness, this is really rare,'" Salsini, who also founded and edited The Sondheim Review, told The Associated Press from his home in Milwaukee. "It's a find." The college show had music by Sondheim and a book and lyrics by Sondheim and another student, Josiah T.S. Horton. Sondheim was at the piano and there was no orchestra.

Salsini suspects Sondheim himself recorded one of



Composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim poses after being awarded the Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony in London, on Sept. 27, 2018.

the shows on an acetate recorder, noting that his mentor Oscar Hammerstein II had urged him to buy such a device. "I'm 90% sure that Sondheim put this tape recorder next to his piano."

The show's title has two playful references: one to "Finian's Rainbow," which had recently opened on Broadway, and the other to James Phinney Baxter III, president of Williams.

The show was a satire centered on a school named

Swindlehurst Prep, whose students are divided into three types: athletes, wolves and intellectuals. When the president is away, the students go wild. Salsini calls the humor "collegiate." In one quip, someone says: "The students are revolting." The reply: "The faculty isn't so good either."

Sondheim wrote 25 musical numbers for "Phinney's Rainbow," including a dream ballet. The show had a cast of 52 students all men, since Williams didn't

admit women until 1971. The budget was \$1,035.

Salsini's CD consists of 19 tracks, for a total running time of 1 hour and 20 minutes. Somehow, the disc had gotten misplaced and he couldn't include it in his book, to his regret. He's not sure how he got it in the first place. Salsini believes other copies might be out there, although none have been found at the Library of Congress or Williams, in Massachusetts.

The sound quality is pretty

poor with laughing and clapping sometimes overwhelming the lyrics but the find is thrilling, nonetheless. Many of the songs hint at the musical theater giant to become, like the first act's "How Do I Know?" with clever wordplay: "And I asked you when/ And you said I would know!/ But how will I know/ When I know that you said 'no'?/ I just don't know!"

Salsini points to that song as an early example of a theme that Sondheim would return to often. "That is a precursor for so many of Sondheim's songs in which he expresses a longing, a longing for love, a longing for affection, that runs through many of his songs in the course of his career."

Sondheim, who died in 2021, became a giant in musical theater, influencing several generations of songwriters, particularly with such landmark musicals as "Company," "Follies" and "Sweeney Todd." Six of Sondheim's musicals won Tony Awards for best score, and he also received a Pulitzer Prize ("Sunday in the Park"), an Academy Award (for the song "Sooner or Later" from the film "Dick Tracy"), five Olivier Awards and the Presidential Medal of Honor. In 2008, he received a Tony Award for lifetime achievement. □

'Road Trippin' — Red Hot Chili Peppers unveil 2023 tour

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There's no rest for the spicy: Fresh off a world tour and two albums this year, Red Hot Chili Peppers are preparing for a set of stadium shows and festival stops across North America and Europe in 2023.

Live Nation said Monday the band's 23-date global trek kicks off March 29 at BC Place in Vancouver, followed by shows in Las Vegas, San Diego, Houston, Lisbon, Madrid, Vienna

and more before wrapping up on July 23 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Joining the band on select dates will be The Strokes, Iggy Pop, The Roots, The Mars Volta, St. Vincent, City and Colour, Thundercat and King Princess. Tickets go on sale starting Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. local time at redhotchilipeppers.com.

The funk-rock band gave us not one but two albums in 2022: October's "Return of the Dream Canteen" and April's "Unlimited Love." Both spent time at

No. 1 of Billboard's top album sales chart.

The Peppers recently took home the Global Icon Award, at the MTV VMAs and their single "Black Summer" also won the award for Best Rock Video. Trade publication Pollstar put the Peppers at No. 4 on its list of most lucrative concert tours in 2022, behind Bad Bunny, Elton John and Lady Gaga, with an average box office gross per city of \$5,605,217 and an average ticket price at \$134.39. □



Anthony Kiedis, of Red Hot Chili Peppers, accepts the award for best rock for "Black Summer" at the MTV Video Music Awards at the Prudential Center on Sunday, Aug. 28, 2022, in Newark, N.J. From left looking on are fellow band member John Frusciante, Chad Smith and Flea.

Associated Press

Analysis: In the NBA, 100 points no longer assures anything

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

If the NBA has a magic number, it's 100.

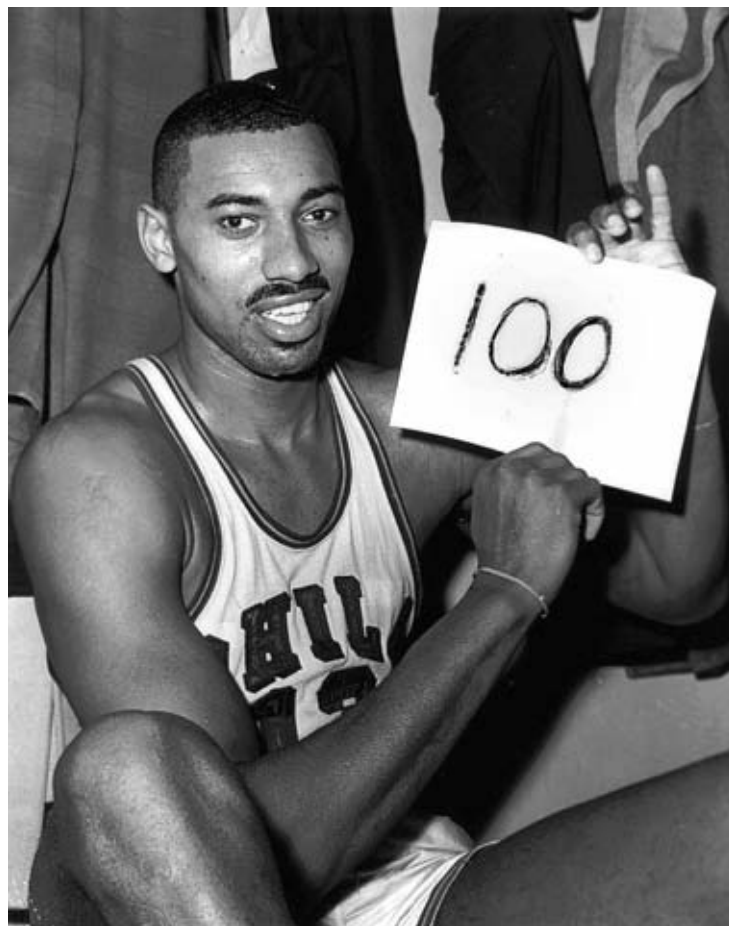
Wilt Chamberlain's single-game scoring record. A perfect shooting percentage. And the rule pretty much seemed to be that if a team scored 100 points in a game, it probably was going to walk off the floor as a winner.

Not anymore.

Put simply, 100 doesn't guarantee anything. Teams with at least 100 points are losing 45% of their games so far this season, the highest such rate in more than 50 years and nearly 10% higher than the league's all-time average.

Orlando is 4-16 when scoring 100 points. Detroit is 6-14 in those games. Houston is 7-15. It's just not enough to win in this NBA era, where defense might seem optional teams insist that isn't the case and 20-point scorers appear to be everywhere.

Really. They're everywhere. Right now, there are nearly 50 NBA players on pace to average 20 points this season. A decade ago, only 11 players finished the season with such an average. There will, without question, be more 20-point-per-game guys not getting picked for the All-Star Game this year than ever before, simply because there aren't anywhere near enough roster



Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors holds a sign in the dressing room in Hershey, Pa., after he scored 100 points as the Warriors defeated the New York Knickerbockers 169-147, March 2, 1962.

Associated Press

spots in that game to accommodate them all.

"We've got a lot of threats out there to shoot the ball," said Brooklyn's Kevin Durant, whose current average of 29.9 points per game ranks seventh in the league this season -- yet is more than he averaged in two of the four seasons in which he won the league's scoring title. "So that keeps defenses on their heels."

He was speaking of the Nets when he said that, though he could have just as easily been talking about the whole league.

Not since 1969-70 has the NBA seen a season where teams are averaging this many points per game. The league average this season is 113 points per contest; that's up 13 points from eight seasons ago and up almost 17 points

from 11 seasons ago. Much of that has to do with the league's ongoing reliance on the 3-pointer a record number of those (30,598) were made last season and this season is on pace for a similar total in that department.

Magic coach Jamahl Mosley says his definition of a good defensive game in this NBA is simple: holding an opponent to 107 or 108 points tends to make him happy.

"That's the crazy part about it," Mosley said. "You say you're scoring enough to get where you need to be, but then defensively, if you're giving up the 120's and the 115's, that's where it becomes tough. That's two or three less turnovers, that's one more rebound, that's knocking down one more shot, that's taking away one more 3. You talk about the small gains and the small things you can do to help your defense get better, those are the pieces."

This may be the best and simplest example of how the game has changed. In the 2014-15 season, the Los Angeles Clippers averaged 106.9 points per game, which was second-best in the NBA. This season, the Clippers are averaging 107.2 per game. That's last in the league.

"I think one of our team's greatest challenges right

now is just being consistent on both ends of the floor, especially the defense," Denver coach Michael Malone said.

Every coach in the league could, and probably has, offered a similar assessment. The game just keeps changing and what used to be normal just isn't anymore.

Going into this week, more than half of the league's teams 16 of the 30 are on pace to have one of the six highest-scoring seasons in their history. Of the first 351 games played this season, there have been only 10 instances of a team scoring less than 100 points and still winning. Last year, it happened about three times as frequently as it has this season.

Some of the stats out there right now when it comes to scoring are just wacky. Minnesota was 20-0 last season when scoring 126 points; the Timberwolves are 4-3 in those games this season. Miami scored 121 points in regulation and lost a game in Boston last week; the Heat had been 64-6 under coach Erik Spoelstra in such games. And then there was Nov. 13, when the New York Knicks did something truly historic.

They scored 135 points in regulation that night and lost by double figures anyway, falling 145-135 to the Oklahoma City Thunder. □

Kyle Gibson, Orioles finalize \$10M, 1-year contract

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Right-hander Kyle Gibson and the Baltimore Orioles finalized a \$10 million, one-year contract on Monday. The 35-year-old would receive a \$150,000 assignment bonus if traded, payable by the receiving team. He also can earn a \$25,000 bonus if he is elected or selected for the All-Star team. Gibson was an All-Star in 2021.

Gibson was 10-8 with a 5.05 ERA in 31 starts for Philadelphia last season. He also pitched 2 1/3 score-

less innings in two relief appearances in the postseason for the NL champions. Baltimore gained another experienced arm as it looks to build on its surprising season. After losing 110 games the previous year, the Orioles contended for an AL wild card for much of the summer before finishing 83-79 for the franchise's first winning record since 2016.

Gibson was an AL All-Star in 2021, going 6-3 with a 2.87 ERA in 19 starts for Texas. He was traded to Phila-

delphia that July, and he went 4-6 with a 5.09 ERA in 12 appearances for the Phillies down the stretch. The 6-foot-6 Gibson was selected by Minnesota in the first round of the 2009 amateur draft. He made his big league debut with the Twins in 2013.

He spent his first seven seasons with Minnesota, going 67-68 with a 4.52 ERA in 193 games, including 188 starts. He had his best year in 2018, finishing with a career-low 3.62 ERA in a career-best 196 2/3 in-



Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Kyle Gibson throws during the first game of the team's baseball doubleheader against the Washington Nationals, Oct. 1, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

nings. Gibson, who signed a \$28 million, three-year contract with Texas in De-

cember 2019, is 89-91 with a 4.52 ERA in 267 major league games. □

Deion Sanders' arrival swipes buzz from bungling Broncos

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**
AP Pro Football Writer

DENVER (AP) — Deion Sanders sauntered into the Arrow Touchdown Club for what felt more like an old-fashioned tent revival than a news conference to introduce the University of Colorado's splashy new hire of "Coach Prime" as its head football coach.

At that very moment Sunday afternoon, the Denver Broncos were predictably blowing another late lead in their death spiral under Nathaniel Hackett and Russell Wilson, who this time couldn't even reach the red zone much less the end zone in a 10-9 loss at Baltimore. Folsom Field has been college football's wasteland for the better part of this century, but a perfect storm has brewed over Boulder that could allow the Buffaloes to turn things around overnight from a 1-11 team that was one of the worst in the nation to a relevant program again. The university recently launched a collective for donations that will create a pool of money so that Colorado can compete with its conference rivals in name, image and likeness deals. And the school has relaxed its rules regarding transfer credits, a move that will allow Sanders' program to compete with established football powerhouses across the country. Combine that with the hiring of Sanders and Colora-



Deion Sanders speaks after being introduced as the new head football coach at the University of Colorado during a news conference Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, in Boulder, Colo.

Associated Press

do suddenly can compete with traditional powerhouses in luring five-star recruits and prominent players in the transfer portal. Suddenly it's cool to be at Colorado, and with Coach Prime's arrival, the Buffs have swiped the buzz that the Broncos have owned in the Centennial State for decades. Now, it's the Broncos who are at the bottom of the barrel in the NFL. At 3-9, they've lost 13 of their last 16, the franchise's worst such stretch since the 1970 merger. It was the state's professional football team and not its flagship university that had all the buzz this spring.

When the Buffs were embarking on a season that would see them win just one game and fire coach Karl Dorrell midseason, the Broncos were boasting about their acquisition of Wilson, whom they would reward with a contract extension before the season that was worth just shy of a quarter-billion dollars. Broncos fans were thrilled that the team's new owners were members of the wealthiest family in America. Walmart heir Rob Walton, the oldest child of Walmart co-founder Sam Walton, bought the Broncos for \$4.65 billion, a global record for a professional sports franchise.

Things were looking up in Denver before it all took a bad turn on opening weekend when Hackett settled for a Brandon McManus 64-yard field-goal attempt in Wilson's horrible homecoming at Seattle. McManus missed, just as he did Sunday when he came up short on a 63-yarder at Baltimore. Wilson has thrown for just eight touchdowns in 11 starts, and the Broncos have reached the end zone three times since Halloween. Detroit Lions running back Jamaal Williams has as many touchdowns himself 14 as the entire Broncos roster this season. The Broncos managed just

three field goals Sunday but still throttled the Ravens all afternoon before allowing Lamar Jackson's backup, Tyler Huntley, to drive them 91 yards in 16 plays for the game's only touchdown with 28 seconds left. Meanwhile, the Dallas Cowboys scored 33 points in the fourth quarter Sunday against the Indianapolis Colts, or 18 more points than the Broncos have managed in the third quarter all season.

It's "Groundhog Day" in Denver with the Broncos' maladroitness unable to score and its stellar defense incapable of closing out opponents.

Not helping matters was a rare slip-up by the Broncos' social media team over the weekend after the week's poster on the team's Twitter account showed Denver's leading tackler Alex Singleton alongside Jackson, Baltimore's dynamic starting quarterback who went out in the first quarter with a knee injury.

Critics wondered why they highlighted Singleton rather than say, cornerback Patrick Surtain II or safety Justin Simmons, who would record two interceptions Sunday.

"Looks like we made some new friends with our game poster!" read the team's response on Twitter. "Shoutout to the real fans who know we do this every week & always feature a different player." □



Carolina Panthers quarterback Baker Mayfield speaks at a news conference after an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

Injury-plagued LA Rams claim QB Baker Mayfield off waivers

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — The Los Angeles Rams have claimed quarterback Baker Mayfield off waivers.

The Rams made the move Tuesday to add Mayfield, the No. 1 pick in the 2018 draft by Cleveland. Mayfield was released by the Panthers on Monday at his request after seven disappointing games with Carolina.

After league-wide speculation about Mayfield joining the contending San Francisco 49ers or Baltimore Ravens, Mayfield instead will join the injury-plagued Rams (3-9).

Los Angeles has lost six straight games during what's shaping up as the worst season in NFL history for a defending Super Bowl champion.

The Rams also need help at quarterback: Matthew Stafford is almost certainly

out for the season with a bruised spinal cord, and backups John Wolford and Bryce Perkins have been fairly ineffective while playing three of the past four games.

Wolford passed for 178 yards with no touchdowns in last Sunday's loss to Seattle.

The Rams host the Las Vegas Raiders on Thursday night, and it's unclear whether Mayfield could be ready to participate. □